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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,677	08/03/2001	Lee P. Noehring	211139.90107	8166
29906	7590	01/04/2006	EXAMINER	
INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ, P.C. 7150 E. CAMELBACK, STE. 325 SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251			THAI, HANH B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2163	

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/921,677

Applicant(s)

NOEHRING ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B. Thai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 9/23/05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 and 35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a Final Office Action in response to the amendment received on September 23, 2005. Independent claims 1, 18 and 35 have been amended. Claims 1-9 and 19-34 have been cancelled. Claims 10-18 and 35 are now pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments regarding assigning a weight value to the request of claims 10, 18 and 35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 10-14, 16-17 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryers et al. (US Pub. 2003/0126233 A1) of record in view of Vange (US Pub. 2002/0002618 A1) newly cited reference.

Regarding claims 10 and 35, Bryers discloses in a system having multiple security channels, a method of modifying an entry in a security association database, the method associated with each channel comprising:

- requesting access to a predetermined address location in the security association database ([0286]-[0287], Bryers);
- a weight value for priority level of the security channels ([0178]-[0183] and [0581]-[0588], Bryers discloses a weight value of the packet's priority);

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- retrieving the security association data structure from the predetermined address location ([0194]; [0195] and [0198], Bryers discloses the retrieving the security association information from the stage 380-1);
- modifying the retrieved security association data structure ([0194] and [0195], Bryers discloses that the retrieved security association will be updated would reads on “modifying the retrieved security association”); and
- writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address location in the security association database ([0195]; [0289]; [0291]; [0298]; [0322] and [0409], Bryers).

Bryers, however, does not explicitly discloses assigning a weight value to the request. Vange discloses system and method for prioritizing data traffic over a shared bandwidth connection including assigning a priority value to the request (abstract; summary and ¶ [0037]-[0039], Vange). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the priority of Vange into the security access structure of Bryers in order to grant access to a higher priority channel.

Regarding claim 11, Bryers/Vange combination discloses the method of claim 10, wherein the step of requesting access comprises setting a request bit in a control register ([0346] and [0544], Bryers).

Regarding claim 12, Bryers/Vange combination discloses the method of claim 10, wherein the security association data structure is retrieved in response to setting a grant bit in the control register ([0346] and [0544], Bryers).

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Regarding claim 13, Bryers/Vange combination discloses the method of claim 10, wherein the step of writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address location comprises: writing the modified security association data structure of to a write buffer prior to writing it to the predetermined address location; and writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address from the write the buffer ([0195]; [0289]; [0291]; [0298]; [0322] and [0409], Bryers).

Regarding claim 14, Bryers/Vange combination discloses the method of claim 13, wherein the step of requesting access comprises setting a request bit in a control register, and wherein the method further comprises: resetting the request bit prior to writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined address location from the write buffer ([0584]-[0591], Bryers).

Regarding claim 16, Bryers/Vange combination discloses the method of claim 10, further comprising: storing the retrieved security association data structure in a local memory; and modifying the retrieved security association data structure ([0194]; [0198]; [0201] and [0204], Bryers).

Regarding claim 17, Bryers/Vange combination discloses the method of claim 10, further comprising: storing the predetermined address location of the retrieved security association data structure in a register ([0378] and [0380], Bryers).

3. Claims 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryers et al. (US Pub. 2003/0126233 A1) of record in view of Vange (US Pub. 2002/0002618 A1) newly cited reference and further in view of Baker (US 5,948,080) of record.

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Regarding claim 15, Bryers/Vange combination discloses all of the claimed limitations as discussed above, except the step of determining whether the write buffer is busy prior to writing the modified security association data structure thereto. Baker discloses a method for assigning communication channel number to a received data packet including the step of checking the data packet status and when valid status is available or busy (col.26, line 23 to col. 27, line 44, Baker). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the combination system of Bryers and Thacker to include the claimed feature as taught by Baker. The motivation of doing so would have been to provide a fast, efficient and practical way to prioritize the data packets in the security channel (col.3, lines 32-35, Baker).

Regarding claim 18, Bryers discloses in a system having multiple security channels, a method of modifying an entry in a security association database, the method associated with each channel comprising:

- requesting access to a predetermined address location in the security association database ([0286]-[0287], Bryers);
- a weight value for priority level of the security channels ([0178]-[0183] and [0581]-[0588], Bryers discloses a weight value of the packet's priority);
- retrieving the security association data structure from the predetermined address location ([0194]; [0195] and [0198], Bryers discloses the retrieving the security association information from the stage 380-1);
- modifying the retrieved security association data structure ([0194] and [0195], Bryers discloses that the retrieved security association will be updated would reads on "modifying the retrieved security association");

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- writing the modified security association data structure to the write buffer; and
writing the modified security association data structure to the predetermined
address location in the security association database from the write buffer
([0195]; [0289]; [0291]; [0298]; [0322] and [0409], Bryers).

Bryers, however, does not explicitly disclose assigning a weight value to the request. Vange discloses system and method for prioritizing data traffic over a shared bandwidth connection including assigning a priority value to the request (abstract; summary and ¶ [0037]-[0039], Vange). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the priority of Vange into the security access structure of Bryers in order to grant access to a higher priority channel.

Bryers/Vange combination does not disclose the step of determining whether a write buffer is busy or when it is not busy.

Baker discloses a method for assigning communication channel number to a received data packet including the step of checking the data packet status and when valid status is available or busy (col.26, line 23 to col. 27, line 44, Baker). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the combination system of Bryers and Vange to include the claimed feature as taught by Baker. The motivation of doing so would have been to provide a fast, efficient and practical way to prioritize the data packets in the security channel (col.3, lines 32-35, Baker).

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B. Thai whose telephone number is 571-272-4029. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hanh B Thai
Examiner
Art Unit 2163

December 22, 2005


UYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER